

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A complete listing of all claims is presented below with insertions underlined (e.g., insertion), and deletions struckthrough or in double brackets (e.g., ~~deletion~~ or [[deletion]]):

1. – 26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A catheter ~~for accessing the heart and engaging a heart valve~~, comprising:

an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end, the elongate flexible body having housed therein a fastening material configured to suture two heart leaflets together;

an anchor zone on a distal portion of the flexible body;

a first tissue manipulator and a second tissue manipulator carried by the ~~flexible body catheter~~ flexible body proximally of the anchor zone, the tissue manipulators being capable of being moved independently of each other and having a fixed end and a free end, the free ends being moveable to an extended position in which the free ends are proximal of the fixed ends, the tissue manipulators being disposed at an angle not more than 90 degrees with respect to the elongate flexible body when in the extended position;

a first receptacle located within the first tissue manipulator for receiving a first fixating member;

a second receptacle located within the second tissue manipulator for receiving a second fixating member; and

a first end of a fastening material disposed within the first receptacle and a second end of the fastening material is disposed within the second receptacle;

wherein a portion of the elongate flexible body located proximal of the tissue manipulators is sufficiently flexible and has sufficient length to enable the tissue manipulators to be advanced from a peripheral venous or arterial blood vessel to a left atrium of a heart, and through a mitral valve of the heart;

wherein the distal portion is configured to extend at least into an anatomical region adjoining the heart valve and the anchor zone is configured to orient and anchor the catheter so that the ~~at least one~~ tissue manipulators can be positioned at the valve.

28. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 3 cm.

29. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 5cm.

30. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the minimum length of the anchor zone on the distal side of the tissue manipulator is at least about 10 cm.

31. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator is moveable between an axial orientation for transluminal navigation and an inclined orientation for manipulating tissue.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first tissue manipulator comprises a tissue grasper for grasping a heart valve leaflet.

34. (Original) A catheter as in Claim 27, comprising at least a first component which is axially moveable with respect to a second component.

35. – 77. (Canceled)

78. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend from a left atrium, through a mitral valve and into a left ventricular outflow tract.

79. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a left ventricular outflow tract into an aorta.

80. (Currently Amended) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend [[into]] through a tricuspid valve and into a right ventricular outflow tract.

81. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the distal portion is configured to extend through a right ventricular outflow tract into a pulmonary artery.

82. (Canceled)

83. (Canceled)

84. (Canceled)

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85. (Canceled)

86. (Canceled)

87. (Canceled)

88. (Canceled)

89. (Canceled)

90. (Canceled)

91. (Canceled)

92. (Canceled)

93. (Canceled)

94. (Canceled)

95. (Canceled)

96. (Canceled)

97. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first tissue manipulator is asymmetric to the second tissue manipulator.

98. (Previously Presented) The catheter as in Claim 97, wherein the first tissue manipulator is longer than the second tissue manipulator.

99. (Canceled)

100. (Canceled)

101. (Canceled)

102. (Canceled)

103. (Canceled)

104. (Canceled)

105. (Canceled)

106. (Canceled)

107. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the tissue manipulator comprises a first elongate tissue manipulator having a first length and a second tissue manipulator having a second length, the first and second tissue manipulators both configured to engage portions of a heart valve from the same side of the valve, the second length being greater than the first length.

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108. (Previously Presented) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the first and second tissue manipulators are capable of sequential deployment.

109. (Canceled)

110. (Canceled)

111. (Canceled)

112. (Canceled)

113. (New) A catheter as in Claim 27, wherein the shape of the catheter acts as a fulcrum about which the catheter can be manipulated with respect to the individual valve leaflets.